

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK LOON OBSERVATION FORM

Lake Name _____ Observers _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Weather (temp., wind, precip...) _____ Time Observed (Start/Stop) _____

Volunteer Loon Observer Service Hours (total driving, hiking and observation time) Start Time _____ Stop Time _____

Summary

of Pairs _____ # of Singles _____ Total Adults _____ (brown & white adult-sized bird) # of Subadults _____ (young of the year) # of Chicks/Juveniles _____
Chick Stage: (Downy young) (Small young) (Large young)

People (on shore) _____ #/type of Boats (in water) _____ Confirmed Nesting (Y/N) _____ Nest Status: (Incubating) (Abandoned) (Hatched)

Significant Observations _____

GPS locations of nest site or other significant observations (in NAD 83) _____

BANDED BIRDS? Color of Bands Loon: (A1, C1...) _____ Left Leg: closest to body _____ / closest to foot _____ Right Leg: closest to body _____ / closest to foot _____

Space to sketch map:


Return form within one week of observation to:

Mailing address: GNP-CCRLC
Citizen Science Loon Project
P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936

Fax: (406) 888-7903

Email: GLAC_Citizen_Science@nps.gov

Phone: (406) 888-7986

FILL IN TABLE ON PAGE 2 

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. On the other side, fill out the general information, the summary box, and sketch a map (or use an attached map). Locate and label loon locations, nesting areas, nursery areas, observation points and watercraft on the map. 2. Note significant observations of loon interactions, nesting, chick rearing, loon/human interactions, predators, eagles, ravens, and other waterfowl. Loon behaviors using timed intervals may also be indicated in the lower table. 3. Do not record behaviors in lower table if loons are reacting to your presence; record this on the Significant Observations line in the Summary box.) 4. Note the presence of natural nests. 5. If you don't observe any loons, please note the absence of loons.

Loon Behavior Key:

B1 Diving/feeding, self	B8 Call – wail	T4 Territorial – raised neck	M1 Courtship – mutual bill dipping/diving
B2 Diving/feeding, chick	B9 Call - hoot	T5 Territorial – upright wingflap	M2 Courtship – ashore nest test
B3 Swimming	B10 Call – flight tremolo	T6 Territorial - circling, bill dipping, diving	M3 Courtship – copulation
B4 Preening	B11 Chick riding on adult	T7 Territorial – penguin dance	N1 Nesting – nest building
B5 Sleeping/loafing	T1 Call – yodel (territorial)	T8 Territorial – surface rush	N2 Nesting – incubation
B6 Flying	T2 Call – tremolo/yodel	T9 Territorial – chasing/attack	N3 Nesting – left nest
B7 Call – tremolo	T3 Territorial – approach	T10 Territorial – harassment diving	

Time Interval (Start) (Stop)	Adult 1 (A1) of pair	Adult 2 (A2) of pair	Other Adults (A3, A4...)	Chick 1 (C1)	Chick 2 (C2)	# People on Shore	#/ type Boats in Water	Eagles or Ravens in the area?	Comments
10:15-10:25	B1, T2	N1				12	3 (canoe)	Y (2 eagles)	EXAMPLE

BEHAVIOR DEFINITION

- T1) Yodel** – Territorial call given by the male loon, usually given when another male flies over the territory or in a territorial encounter.
- T3) Approach** – A pair approaching an intruder loon, other waterfowl or boat
- T4) Raised Neck** – A heightened alertness and is an easy clue that something is disturbing the birds.
- T5) Upright Wing-flap** – The loons to rise up out of the water and flap their wings with white breasts towards the intruder. This is a long distance signal to an intruder (loon or boat) that the territory is occupied.
- T6) Circling** – The resident pair and the intruder loon move around each other in a circle.
- Bill Dipping** – A repeated sequence of raising the neck/head and a dipping of the face into the water. A nervous gesture, which occurs as the loons come within a close distance of the intruder.
- Mutual Dive** – Jerky head movements followed by shallow dives by 1 or more loons.
- T7) Penguin Dance** – The birds raise up vertically out of the water, treading water with their feet. Sometimes they slap the water with their wings. This is the most aggressive territorial behavior.
- T8) Surface Rush** – Usually follows Penguin Dance. The “dancing” bird falls forward into the water and continues the momentum as an underwater torpedo.
- T9) Chasing** – Occurs on the surface as the loon uses their wings in an “oaring” motion to chase off an intruder.
- Attack** – Loons will attack other birds, such as grebes.
- T10) Harassment Diving** – Loons will harass waterfowl by diving and resurfacing under the offending bird.